

From: Mhandrh@aol.com  
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner  
Adelstein  
Date: Thu, Apr 10, 2003 9:38 PM  
Subject: media ownership

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

Limits on media ownership are not limits on free speech. On the contrary, consolidation is a form of self-serving censorship by the corporations. I urge limits be placed to halt the increasing corporate ownership of media broadcasting.

Marie Harris  
Bartlett, IL 60103

From: joyakuus@yahoo.com  
To: KathleenAbernathy  
Date: Sun, Apr 13, 2003 10:48 AM  
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

RECEIVED

APR 22 2003

FCC  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SECTION

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Joan Ambo  
4314 N. Dayton  
Chicago, Illinois 60613-1405

cc:  
Senator Richard Durbin  
Senator Peter Fitzgerald  
Representative Jan Schakowsky

RECEIVED

APR 22 2003

**From:** joyakuus@yahoo.com  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Sun, Apr 13, 2003 10:48 AM  
**Subject:** Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in **less** original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected

Sincerely,

Joan Ambo  
4314 N. Dayton  
Chicago, Illinois 60613-1405

cc:  
Senator Richard Durbin  
Senator Peter Fitzgerald  
Representative Jan Schakowsky

From: Randy King  
To: Michael Copps  
Date: Sun, Apr 13, 2003 10:37 PM  
Subject: Cross-Ownership Rules

RECEIVED  
APR 22 2003

Commissioner Copps,

I support your efforts to stop the dismantling of the FCC's  
newspaper-broadcast  
cross-ownership rules which prohibit ownership of both newspapers and  
broadcasting  
outlets in the same community by the same entity.

Randy King

From: John Banks  
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein. Michael  
Copps  
Date: Mon, Apr 14, 2003 11:04 AM  
Subject: deregulation petition

Dear Commissioner Copps,  
mcopps@fcc.gov

Please let this letter serve as my formal complaint and objection to any pending FCC rulings which may lift restrictions on mergers between TV broadcast networks and the number of local TV or radio stations owned by one company. Such deregulation threatens to further stifle the diversity of programming for consumers, advertisers and producers. One of the main charges of the FCC is to promote diversity, which doesn't just refer to people of color, it refers to many different types of programming. We applaud you Commissioner Copps for attempting to draw attention to ! this problem. I would like to go on record as being opposed to increased or further media deregulation and wish for you to act on my behalf and STOP further media deregulation.

Respectfully yours,

J. Pen Banks  
@aol.com

How to Contact the FCC

To Contact the other Commissioners via E-mail  
Chairman Michael K. Powell: mpowell@fcc.gov  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy: kabernat@fcc.gov  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin: kjmweb@fcc.gov  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein: jadelste@fcc.gov

The new MSN 8: smart spam protection and 2 months FREE\*

**From:** Alex Cornejo  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Mon, Apr 14, 2003 2:20 PM  
**Subject:** How to combat Arms of Mass deception!

APR 22 2003

Dear Commissioner:

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. National radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Thank you,  
Alex Cornejo, San Fernando Valley, California 91324

Do you Yahoo!?  
Yahoo! Tax Center - File online, calculators, forms, and more

**From:** Don Gooding  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Mon. Apr 14, 2003 3:09 PM  
**Subject:** Opposing a loosening of radio ownership rules

I am writing to oppose any further loosening on the restrictions of media ownership, i.e., the number of radio stations, televisions and newspaper outlets that may be owned by a single corporate entity.

I rarely write emails to the government; I am too busy running my small music business, in the niche of a cappella singing (singing without instruments). But I feel I am qualified to comment on this issue. I am:

- in the music business now (CDs, retail, sheet music, productions)
- formerly in the telecommunications business (15 years market research & venture capital)
- a registered republican
- an economist by training (Yale '81 BA distinction in Economics)

The fundamental flaw in the economic theory allowing continued consolidation is that the government already has a major role in creating the scarce resources in question: radio and television frequencies. Abdicating further responsibilities in allocating those scarce resources is simply irresponsible, and ignores the ample data of the last decade that media consolidation in radio has resulted in **less** consumer choice, not more. Specifically, Clear Channel has had a chilling effect on innovation in the music business.

Despite the emergence of the Internet as a promotion vehicle, radio remains a primary tool for promoting new music artists. Media consolidation has placed radio out of reach for small record labels, and even for all but the most highly funded artists backed by the Big 5 of the CD business.

Maybe if satellite radio has a significant market share in 10 years, further consolidation should be allowed. Television is a good example - cable and satellite TV provide ample competition to local stations today. However, until that time, radio remains a unique and scarce resource which is already dominated by a very small number of corporations. If anything, the Justice Department should be pursuing antitrust actions. It is certainly not the time for the FCC to be allowing Clear Channel to solidify its stranglehold on radio.

---

Don Gooding  
Mainely A CAPPELLA <http://www.a-cappella.com>  
[don@a-cappella.com](mailto:don@a-cappella.com) P.O. Box 159111 Seal Cove Rd  
800-827-2936 Southwest Harbor, ME 04679  
207-244-7603 (overseas calls) 207-244-7613 (fax)  
WEB STORE: <http://mac3.a-cappella.com/shop>  
Now with more than 20.000 sound files!

From: Lynn Ascher  
To: Kathleen Abernathy. kjmweb@fcc.com  
Date: Mon, Apr 14, 2003 3:19 PM  
Subject: [Fwd: revising rules of media ownership]

RECEIVED

APR 22 2003

Mr. Chairman & Commissioners  
FCC Staff

## ----- Original Message

Subject: revising rules of media ownership  
Date: Mon, 14 Apr 2003 12:18:03 -0600  
From: Lynn Ascher <lascher01@earthlink.net>  
To: mpowell@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, abernat@fcc.gov, kjmwebb@fcc.gov, jadelste@fcc.gov

Dear Mr. Chairman and FCC Commissioners:

The regulations that control media ownership do not need further loosening. If anything, they need tightening. Half a dozen media conglomerates -- AOL Time Warner, Disney, GE, News Corp, Viacom. Vivendi Universal -- control what Americans see, hear and read. Big Brothers are here.

As we know from recent experience, bigger corporations are NOT better (Enron, World Com, etc); they're just dishonest on a larger scale. The conglomerate's concern is ALWAYS profits, no matter how they're made.

Is there any value to American society in handing even more control of its media outlets to a handful of companies? The citizenry will get an even more homogenous set of political, social and cultural messages that contribute to the corporations' bottom lines...and their political agendas -- these companies are huge political contributors.

Deregulation is NOT the way to go when it comes to entrusting the means of communicating -- and influencing -- the American public. Business doesn't give a damn about freedom of speech, local news and input, material and opinion that challenges the status quo, objectivity in reporting. They care about what's in their annual reports -- and even that's not to be trusted.

Encourage local control of media outlets. Forget the mergers. Forget allowing cross-ownership of tv stations, newspapers and radio stations. Communication is NOT ONLY about making money; it's about giving the public a wide variety of choices and opinions. Do it.



RECEIVED

APR 22 2003

From: Dean Katerndahl  
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner  
Adelstein  
Date: Mon, Apr 14, 2003 4:49 PM  
Subject: Media Ownership Review

I have watched with considerable concern the discussion of the potential loosening of media ownership regulations. I believe that such a course of action will only lead to a greater concentration of ownership and a greater likelihood that this will lead to a dearth of points of view and an ever increasing bias in the media, skewed to the interests of large multinational corporations.

Although corporate concentration is an ever growing dilemma for free societies, it is especially acute when speaking of the media. Their influence on public knowledge and discourse is tremendous and, therefore, we look to our government and regulatory bodies such as the FCC to protect the interests of the average citizen and the values on which our society was built. Allowing corporations to dominate media markets and the information they provide does not serve our open society well.

I urge to retain regulations that assure that a number of separate voices must be present in each market.

Yours truly,

Dean Katerndahl  
2718 N. 101 Terrace  
Kansas City, KS 66109  
threeswell@gbronline.com

**From:** Ferrance@aol.com  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 11.2003 7:35 AM  
**Subject:** Fairness Doctrine

Please reinstate the Fairness Doctrine to ensure balance in the media. Thank you.  
Francis J. Ferrance, Ph.D., J.D.

**From:** Dale Gould  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 11, 2003 8:48 AM  
**Subject:** Stop further media deregulation

Dear Commissioner Copps  
mcopps@fcc.gov

Please let this letter serve as my formal complaint and objection to any pending FCC rulings which may lift restriction's on mergers between TV broadcast networks and the number of local N o r radio stations owned by one company. Such deregulation threatens to further stifle the diversity of programming for consumers, advertisers and producers. One of the main charges of the FCC is to promote diversity, which doesn't **just** refer to people of color, it refers to many different types of programming. We applaud you Commissioner Copps for attempting to draw attention to this problem. I would like to go on record as being opposed to increased or further media deregulation and wish for you to act on my behalf and STOP further media deregulation.

Respectfully yours,  
Dale R Gould  
gouldd@bellsouth.net

**From:** Sam Slack  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 11, 2003 12:53 PM  
**Subject:** Ref: deregulation of media

Dear Commissioner Copps:

Please let this e-mail serve as my formal complaint and objection to any pending FCC rulings which may lift restrictions on mergers between TV broadcast networks and the number of local TV or radio stations owned by any one company. Such deregulation threatens to further stifle the diversity of programming for consumers, advertisers and producers. One of the main responsibilities of the FCC is to promote diversity, which doesn't just refer to people of color... it refers to many different types of programming. I applaud you Commissioner Copps for attempting to draw attention to this problem. I, and other Americans as well, are opposed to further media deregulation. I hope you will act on our behalf to STOP further media deregulation.

Respectfully yours,

Sam L. Slack

From: Sam Slack  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2003 12:59 PM  
Subject: deregulation of media

----- Original Message -----

From: Sam Slack <sam.slack@worldnet.att.net>  
To: <mcopps@fcc.gov>  
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 12:53 PM  
Subject: Ref: deregulation of media

> Dear Commissioner Copps:  
>  
> Please let this e-mail serve as my formal complaint and objection to any  
> pending  
> FCC rulings which may lift restrictions on mergers between TV broadcast  
> networks and the number of local TV or radio stations owned by any one  
> company. Such deregulation threatens to further stifle the diversity of  
> programming for consumers, advertisers and producers. One of the main  
> responsibilities of the FCC is to promote diversity, which doesn't just  
> refer  
> to people of color... it refers to many different types of programming. I  
> applaud you Commissioner Copps for attempting to draw attention to  
> this problem. I, and other Americans as well, are opposed to further  
> media  
> deregulation. I hope you will act on our behalf to STOP further media  
> deregulation.  
>  
> Respectfully yours,  
>  
> Sam L. Slack  
>

CC: Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB. Commissioner Adelstein

From: mohn@galaxytowers.com  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2003 1:59 PM  
Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers that could reduce competition and diversity in the media.

Before the media ownership rules are issued in final form, the public must have the opportunity to review and comment on any specific changes the Commission plans to make.

If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, TV station, and possibly even a cable system giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community. It could also raise costs for businesses and candidates that use local media for advertising.

While the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, it proposed no actual rule. Accordingly, no public comment has been received on any specific changes. We believe that additional input from the public will help the Commission see the strengths and weaknesses of any new approach.

I encourage you to provide a detailed description of all proposed changes, their empirical basis, and a meaningful period of time for the public to review and comment on any proposed changes before a final rule is issued.

The stakes for citizens and the nation are enormous. More information, not less, about proposed changes would best serve the public interest. Indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to keep the rulemaking process as open and inclusive as possible.

Sincerely,

Jim Mohn  
7000 Blvd. East  
Gitttrnberg, New Jersey 07093

From: presidentcwa31ZO@mindspring.com  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2003 2:16 PM  
Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers that could reduce competition and diversity in the media.

Before the media ownership rules are issued in final form, the public must have the opportunity to review and comment on any specific changes the Commission plans to make.

If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, TV station, and possibly even a cable system giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community. It could also raise costs for businesses and candidates that use local media for advertising.

While the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, it proposed no actual rule. Accordingly, no public comment has been received on any specific changes. We believe that additional input from the public will help the Commission see the strengths and weaknesses of any new approach.

I encourage you to provide a detailed description of all proposed changes, their empirical basis, and a meaningful period of time for the public to review and comment on any proposed changes before a final rule is issued.

The stakes for citizens and the nation are enormous. More information, not less, about proposed changes would best serve the public interest. Indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to keep the rulemaking process as open and inclusive as possible.



**Sincerely,**

**Bill Tracy  
314 S 62 Ave  
Hollywood, Florida 33023**

From: David Fowler  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2003 2:34 PM  
Subject: FCC Regulations Hearings

Dear Mr. Powell,

Your attempts to update rules regarding media ownership restrictions without any public debate or disclosure is unconstitutional, undemocratic, and I find it grotesque as a tax paying citizen of the U.S

It's is apparently obvious when you turn on the TV, listen to the radio, or read the paper that media ownership domination by a few corporate conglomerates is damaging one of the foundations of democracy - a free and unfettered media. It's all too obvious that General Electric owning NBC, CNBC, MSNBC, and others, Viacom owning CBS, MTV, VH1, NICK, and many others, Disney owning ABC, Disney Channels, and many others, Rupert Murdoch owning Fox, DirecTV, many others, Clear Channel owning the majority of radio stations is frighteningly similar to a fascist regime or dictatorship controlling the media outlets in the country and population they control.

Our country is already headed on a path of less democracy with the media control that has occurred thus far - altering ownership restrictions now will make it even worse.

Do the responsible thing that you should do for someone in your position and stand up to the corporate and political conglomerates that want to control this country by every means possible. At some point, there is going to be a serious backlash against the people and their organizations that are attempting to ruin this country for their self-serving agendas.

David Fowler

From: David Fowler  
To: Michael Copps  
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2003 2:35 PM  
Subject: FCC Regulation Hearings

Dear Mr. Copps,

Your attempts to update rules regarding media ownership restrictions without any public debate or disclosure is unconstitutional, undemocratic, and I find it grotesque as a tax paying citizen of the U.S

It's is apparently obvious when you turn on the TV. listen to the radio, or read the paper that media ownership domination by a few corporate conglomerates is damaging one of the foundations of democracy - a free and unfettered media. It's all too obvious that General Electric owning NBC, CNBC, MSNBC, and others, Viacom owning CBS, M N , VH1, NICK, and many others. Disney owning ABC, Disney Channels, and many others, Rupert Murdoch owning Fox, DirecTV, many others, Clear Channel owning the majority of radio stations is frightenly similar to a fascist regime or dictatorship controlling the media outlets in the country and population they control.

Our country is already headed on a path of less democracy with the media control that has occurred thus far - altering ownership restrictions now will make it even worse.

Do the responsible thing that you should do for someone in your position and stand up to the corporate and political conglomerates that want to control this country by every means possible. At some point, there is going to be a serious backlash against the people and their organizations that are attempting to ruin this country for their self-serving agendas.

David Fowler

From: David Fowler  
To: Commissioner Adelstein  
Date: Fri, Apr 11.2003 2:35 PM  
Subject: FCC Regulations Hearings

Dear Mr. Adelstein.

Your attempts to update rules regarding media ownership restrictions without any public debate or disclosure is unconstitutional, undemocratic, and I find it grotesque as a tax paying citizen of the U.S

It's is apparently obvious when you turn on the TV, listen to the radio, or read the paper that media ownership domination by a few corporate conglomerates is damaging one of the foundations of democracy - a free and unfettered media. It's all too obvious that General Electric owning NBC, CNBC, MSNBC, and others, Viacom owning CBS, MTV, VH1, NICK, and many others, Disney owning ABC, Disney Channels, and many others, Rupert Murdoch owning Fox, DirecTV, many others, Clear Channel owning the majority of radio stations is frightenly similar to a fascist regime or dictatorship controlling the media outlets in the country and population they control.

Our country is already headed on a path of less democracy with the media control that has occurred thus far - altering ownership restrictions now will make it even worse.

Do the responsible thing that you should do for someone in your position and stand up to the corporate and political conglomerates that want to control this country by every means possible. At some point, there is going to be a serious backlash against the people and their organizations that are attempting to ruin this country for their self-serving agendas.

David Fowler

From: Rebecca Smith  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Fri, Apr 11.2003 3:35 PM  
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Openness in the Media and on the Internet

Rebecca Smith  
1735canal street  
merced. CA 95340

April 11, 2003

Federal Communications Commission Chair Michael K. Powell  
445 12th St SW  
Rm 8-A204  
Washington, DC 20554

Chair Powell:

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for ensuring that the media serve the public interest. I am concerned that the FCC is acting on behalf of big business rather than the people.

It is clear that the FCC has stepped up its efforts to de-regulate the media and telecommunications industries. You must act now to halt further media consolidation and to preserve the openness and diversity of the Internet.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society. Ownership consolidation is squeezing out what little diversity remains in the marketplace.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review any further regulations. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

**Rebecca** Smith

From: Rebecca Smith  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2003 3:39 PM  
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Openness in the Media and on the Internet

Rebecca Smith  
1735 canal street  
merced. CA 95340

April 11, 2003

Chair Michael Powell  
445 12th St SW  
Rm 8AZ04  
Washington, DC 20554

Chair Powell:

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for ensuring that the media serve the public interest. I am concerned that the FCC is acting on behalf of big business rather than the people.

It is clear that the FCC has stepped up its efforts to de-regulate the media and telecommunications industries. You must act now to halt further media consolidation and to preserve the openness and diversity of the Internet.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society. Ownership consolidation is squeezing out what little diversity remains in the marketplace.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review any further regulations. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Smith

From: ddolphin@nonmouth.edu  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2003 4:05 PM  
Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers that could reduce competition and diversity in the media.

Before the media ownership rules are issued in final form, the public must have the opportunity to review and comment on any specific changes the Commission plans to make.

If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, TV station, and possibly even a cable system giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community. It could also raise costs for businesses and candidates that use local media for advertising.

While the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, it proposed no actual rule. Accordingly, no public comment has been received on any specific changes. We believe that additional input from the public will help the Commission see the strengths and weaknesses of any new approach.

I encourage you to provide a detailed description of all proposed changes, their empirical basis, and a meaningful period of time for the public to review and comment on any proposed changes before a final rule is issued.

The stakes for citizens and the nation are enormous. More information, not less, about proposed changes would best serve the public interest. Indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to keep the rulemaking process as open and inclusive as possible.

Sincerely,

Donna Dolphin  
306 Bayside E. Pkwy  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731



From: WTHORPE@cwa-union.org  
To: Mike Powell  
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2003 4:05 PM  
Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers that could reduce competition and diversity in the media.

Before the media ownership rules are issued in final form, the public must have the opportunity to review and comment on any specific changes the Commission plans to make.

If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, TV station, and possibly even a cable system giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community. It could also raise costs for businesses and candidates that use local media for advertising.

While the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, it proposed no actual rule. Accordingly, no public comment has been received on any specific changes. We believe that additional input from the public will help the Commission see the strengths and weaknesses of any new approach.

I encourage you to provide a detailed description of all proposed changes, their empirical basis, and a meaningful period of time for the public to review and comment on any proposed changes before a final rule is issued.

The stakes for citizens and the nation are enormous. More information, not less, about proposed changes would best serve the public interest. Indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to keep the rulemaking process as open and inclusive as possible.